

Professor Obi Writes For Nigerian Newspapers

by Ramona Hawkinson

Bethany College's assistant professor of physics and mathematics, Mr. Enuenwemba Obi, serves not only in that capacity but writes for the newspapers as well. He has always been interested in writing, and says that he writes not only for his own enjoyment but also for the benefit of others, particularly his Nigerian countrymen.

Mr. Obi came to the United States from Nigeria in February, 1952, and studied at McPherson College, at the University of Nebraska, and at the University of Kansas City before spending the past three years teaching. He has been writing for West African newspapers since about 1955, his articles being published in *The West African Pilot*, *The Nigerian Citizen*, and two other newspapers with a wide circulation. The Bethany professor feels that his purpose in writing,

as well as his philosophy of life, is always to seek the good points on both sides in any situation. A middle-of-the-road concept, rather than a wholesale conformity, is his object.

West Africa has, in the past few years, made remarkable progress, he feels, and has certainly not remained backward. Since Nigeria, Mr. Obi's home, has been faced with many controversies, he has taken the time to observe and comment upon these happenings from an interested yet detached point of view.

On Nuclear Testing

His most recently published article, in *The Nigerian Citizen*, has urged West Africans to unite in negotiating with France on nuclear testing in the Sahara Desert. He feels that Nigeria is especially susceptible to fallout from nuclear testing because of its climatic conditions. In the first place, Nigeria has a very heavy rainfall—170 inches per year, with the amount reaching 300 inches in southeast Nigeria. This much rainfall does not allow the radioactive particles to float up and away into the atmosphere; rather, the rainfall

(Continued on Page 4)

Student Union to Be Pihlblad Memorial

The Bethany College Board of Directors has voted to name the proposed student union the Pihlblad Memorial Union in memory of Dr. Ernst Pihlblad, third presi-

Obi Writes

(Continued from Page 1)

brings these particles to the surface of the earth. Furthermore, the Sahara wind system, the **Harmattan**, is extremely powerful, blowing from the northeast almost continuously for about four months during the year. These two conditions, rainfall and wind system, combined, make Nigeria a danger spot when France begins its nuclear tests.

Mr. Obi said that Nigeria alone has no chance of persuading France to take all precautions possible to minimize the danger of fall-out. The danger prevails in other countries as well. Therefore, the territories in West Africa must appeal to France as a united group, and will no doubt be forced to strike a bargain. France desperately needs African raw materials, and Africa needs French consideration in nuclear testing. West Africa is hoping for successful negotiations.

Socialism vs. Democracy

One of Mr. Obi's other articles dealt with the problem of democracy versus socialism in an independent Nigeria. He emphasized the point that communism is not at all the same as socialism, as contrary to the opinion many people hold. The fact that both Britain and America employ socialism in certain forms and situations was brought out, as was the idea that these forms have worked out well. A suggestion made by Mr. Obi was that the government be solely in charge of Nigeria's economic policy.

Another controversy in Nigeria dealt with the universities recently established in that federation. There was much disagreement over whether their system of organization should follow the intellectual British pattern,

with subject material being the important thing, and organized on a perpendicular basis; or the practical American pattern, with technique the primary concern, and organized on a horizontal basis. Mr. Obi said that as yet, British influence having been so great and having lasted for so long, their ideas still prevailing in most instances. However, the emphasis is shifting from academic to technical, and Nigeria now has three technical colleges.

Future Foreign Policy

An article dealing with the foreign policy controversy in Nigeria is now being written by Mr. Obi. His question is, "When Nigeria attains independence, then what? Should she ally with the East or West, or should she remain neutral?" He clarified his feeling with the following example: "If I saw two men fighting on a street corner, I would not join one in helping to beat the other, would I? No, I would do one of two things. I would either try to separate them, or would turn my eyes so I could not see them." And he feels that Nigeria's foreign policy might be this way: rather than allying with the East or with the West and, perhaps, becoming annihilated by either choice, Nigeria should bring in a third force, joining with the neutral powers to lessen the influence of both East and West. And he suggests two solutions for international defense: either that the United Nations be entirely in charge of defense, controlling all weapons; or that every nation be somehow granted equal atomic power.

Mr. Obi is proof that professors devote themselves entirely to one field of interest.

Is There Any